

is called, was the worst slaughter west of the Mississippi of Native Americans, with estimates of the dead nearly double those of Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Now, for the first time in its history, 26 acres where so many Shoshones perished will be treated as the sacred burial ground that it is. In a solemn and moving ceremony, the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation was able to perform burial rites for the men, women, and children who died on that site over 140 years ago. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor those members of the tribe who gave their lives on that day in 1863.

I want to commend the efforts of the tribe, the American West Heritage Center, and the Trust for Public Lands for working together to bring closure to this episode in our nation's history. Their goal is to obtain a total of 150 acres so that the Bear River Massacre site can be turned into a memorial. This story, along with the tribe's history and culture, will be preserved and shared with the public at the nearby American West Heritage Center in Wellsville, Utah, which is also located in my district.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of our colleagues, I am also submitting an article for the RECORD from a Salt Lake newspaper, which details the history of this site. I commend the past and current Shoshone leadership for their vision and efforts.

[From the Salt Lake Tribune, Feb. 4, 2003]

#### THIS HALLOWED GROUND

It never made any sense to call what happened at Idaho's Bear River 140 years ago a "battle." When soldiers based in Salt Lake City went on a mad rampage and killed at least 250 men, women and children of the Northwestern Shoshone tribe on Jan. 29, 1863, it was a massacre.

And it still makes no sense that the site of that blot on our shared history is not officially designated as a national historic site.

Descendants of the Northwestern Shoshone see the historic significance of the place, and so does the National Park Service. But, while the site near Preston in southeastern Idaho drew a small crowd of devoted friends to mark Wednesday's anniversary of the horrible event, what happened there remains something that has been largely air-brushed, Stalin-like, from our official memory.

The stumbling block, apparently, is that Idaho Sen. Larry Craig has for eight years been bottling up a resolution to create a \$14 million Bear River National Historic Site and Visitors Center. Craig says the park service has more immediate needs and, given the constant scuffle within all federal agencies for adequate funding, it is true that not every idea for a new national historic site can be fulfilled.

But the Bear River massacre is important enough that it needs to be burned into our collective memory. It was one of the earliest and one of the bloodiest encounters between Native Americans and European settlers in the Far West. Its memory has been kept alive by the tireless efforts of a few Shoshone, most notably Utah's Mae Timbimbo Parry, efforts that themselves deserve to be chronicled at an official historic site.

As the United States gears up to mark the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery, with proper notice given to their Shoshone guide Sacagawea, now would be the proper time to note this terribly sad bit of fallout from that courageous expedition. The extra amount of attention that will be focused on Lewis and Clark should be used to earn support from historians, Congress, foundations and the general public to

properly mark the site of the Bear River Massacre and formally mourn those who died there.

The place of the Bear River Massacre is a national historic site, whether we say so or not.

We should say so.

#### THE CRISIS IN LIBERIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in response to the troubling situation of unrest in our ally nation of Liberia. Because of the rich history of its birth in 1820 with the valiant acts of freed American slaves in founding the capital of Christopolis, now Monrovia, we certainly have a stake in the need for restoring peace.

Since the end of the seven-year civil war that claimed the lives of over 250,000 people, more than 1.3 million residents have had to flee the country for refuge in neighboring countries, many of which have already reached the end of their meager resources. The series of events in Liberia presents a harsh irony in light of yesterday's events: we celebrated a Constitutional victory in the *Grutter v. Bollinger* decision that came out of the highest court in the nation. Similarly ironic, on that same day, we saluted the Honorable Mayor Maynard Jackson, Jr., one of the most charismatic civic leaders of all time in his departure at age 65. This ironic juxtaposition of emotions reminds us that no matter how far we think we've gotten, there is always distance to be traveled in the work of making peace in the world.

The U.N. High Court indictment of Liberian President Charles Taylor on charges of crimes against humanity, largely stemming from his participation in the civil war in Sierra Leone, has created a panic in Monrovia. A Liberian woman stated that "We are all tired of Charles Taylor, but we are afraid that his arrest in Ghana will create chaos." We in the United States now know the feeling of panic as we check the terror threat on a daily basis—today's threat level being Yellow, or "heightened." People shouldn't have to live in fear.

The economic effect of the renewed arms embargo, ban on dealing in rough diamonds, and airline restrictions on Liberia will be substantial for the citizens and business community. However, the human rights abuses such as summary executions, recruitment of child soldiers, sexual violence, looting of civilian property, and forced labor must end now. The mass evacuation aboard the French vessel *Orange* of the hundreds of foreigners, including Americans, holding dual U.S. and Liberian citizenship, Europeans, Lebanese, Ivorian and Indian nationals, Egyptians, and some Africans represents a departure from our goal of uniting our international community in peace. It is a moral imperative that we end the

chaos caused by anarchy and criminal behavior. The Ceasefire Agreement between the Republic of Liberia, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LUR) groups, and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) is a start, but our help is imperative. We must make our voices heard and incite action from our colleagues in order to restore peace.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. WYNN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today until 11:00 a.m. on account of personal business.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today from 6:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of attending a funeral.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Member (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 163. An act to reauthorize the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Work Force and the Committee on Resources.

S. 498. An act to authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Joseph A. De Laine, in recognition of his contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

S. 867. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 710 Wicks Lane in Billings, Montana, as the "Ronald Reagan Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 825. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7401 West 100th Place in Bridgeview, Illinois, as the "Michael J. Healy Post Office Building".

H.R. 917. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1830 South Lake Drive in Lexington, South Carolina, as the "Floyd Spence Post Office Building".

H.R. 925. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1859 South Ashland Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Cesar Chavez Post Office".

H.R. 981. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at